

THE OCCURRENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF VASEY'S PONDWEED IN NORTHEASTERN OHIO

BY L. S. HOPKINS

So far as available records show the first collection of this interesting little pondweed—*Potamogeton Vaseyi* Robbins—was made at Brady's Lake, Portage Co., by the writer on June 22, 1912, it being in flower at the time.

The fact that the plant was new to me at the time of its collection signified little since I had given no attention to the members of this genus. Moreover it occurred in such abundance that I never surmised that it had not been collected before and it was not until later that I learned that this was the first authentic account of its occurrence in the state.

It has since been collected by Mr. John Bright of Glenshaw, Pa. at the mouth of Cowles Creek, near Geneva-on-the-Lake in Ashtabula Co. on July 28, 1918, and by myself in August, 1918, and again in 1919 at Sandy Lake (also called Lake Stafford), Portage Co.

Although the Gray's New Manual, 1908, page 76, gives its distribution as being from "Me. to Ont., s. to Ct., N. Y., O., Ill., and Minn.," Schaffner does not include it in his "Ohio Catalogue of Vascular Plants."

Brief comment may be made upon two statements commonly made in connection with this plant. The first is found in Britton and Brown's Illustrated Flora, 1913, page 83 to the effect that "emersed fertile forms (occur) in shallow water." The other is found in the Gray's New Manual, which states that the "fruiting form with floating leaves (is) rare."

With reference to local material as studied at the lakes mentioned, it seems worthy of note that it does not agree with the manuals quoted in three essential particulars.

1. Fruiting stems are not rare. On the contrary they are very abundant. It is no exaggeration to say that enough fruiting stems to fill an ordinary row boat could have been collected at Sandy Lake in August, 1919.

2. Unless the term "floating leaves" is used merely to distinguish the larger leaves from the smaller it is a misnomer, for they do not always float. Thousands of these "floating leaves" were seen in 1918 and again in 1919, which by actual measurement, were submerged at varying depths up to twenty inches.

3. Fruiting stems are not limited to shallow water. It produced fruit abundantly at Sandy Lake in 1919 in water of such depth that the combined length of an ordinary oar—6 ft, 6 in.—and my arm with the sleeve rolled up as far as I could get it did not suffice to reach the bottom. In this particular lake for the past two seasons it has fruited most abundantly in water over six feet deep.

As northeastern Ohio abounds in small lakes it is not improbable that other stations for it will be discovered.

Several sheets of herbarium material were prepared from specimens collected at Sandy Lake and will be given to any one who may care to send postage for it.

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SHORTER NOTES

Carpolithes macrophyllus a *Philadelphus*.—In TORREYA, 1911, p. 235, I described a fossil fruit from the Miocene of Florissant, giving it the name *Carpolithes macrophyllus*, and leaving its classification uncertain. I now find that it agrees in every particular with *Philadelphus*, except that the sepals are longer than in any living species known to me. It must be called *Philadelphus macrophyllus*, but it very likely belongs to the same species as *P. palaeophilus* Ckll. 1908, based on leaves from the same rocks.—T. D. A. COCKERELL

REVIEWS

Flora of the District of Columbia*

Washington botanists are to be congratulated upon the publication of this important contribution to the regional botany of eastern North America, containing, as it does, the record of an

* Hitchcock, A. S. and Standley, P. C. With the assistance of the botanists of Washington, Flora of the District of Columbia and Vicinity. Contribution U. S. Nat. Herb. 21: pp. 1-329, pl. 42. 1919.